



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1758

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs (GAMSD) is dedicated to ending veteran suicide and restoring dignity and independence to disabled veterans, first responders, and others with disabilities. To meet the growing demand for our life-changing services, GAMSD seeks \$1,250,000 in funding for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. This includes \$250,000 for operational support and \$1,000,000 for campus construction to enhance our capacity to train service dogs. Through custom training programs, our service dogs address critical challenges associated with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, mobility disorders, hearing impairments, seizure disorders, and diabetic conditions. This funding will enable us to expand our programs, ensuring that more veterans receive these essential services, while also meeting federal requirements for program continuation under the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,250,000	63%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	500,000	25%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	242,123	12%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,992,123</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**  Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**



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Federal funding has decreased and while we continuously seek private contributions, the demand for our services outpaces available funds. State funding will enable us to construct essential indoor housing for service dogs and upgrade facilities for training. These improvements will: increase our operational capacity and efficiency and, importantly, satisfy new federal requirements for future eligibility for federal grants.

## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e. permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

10/31/2025

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Federal funding and private contributions. For the first few years, however, additional operational support from the state will be required.

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs will receive funds and is the sole owner of the facility.

### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Staff salaries and benefits for trainers and support personnel	125,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Supplies for training and pairing	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Consultant services for mental health, motivational intervention and life coaching related to service dog pairings	100,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of indoor dog housing and training facilities. Yard and fencing renovations	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,250,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance



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**a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?**

GAMSD is committed to ending veteran suicide and returning veterans to a life of dignity and independence. This funding will be used for operating support and construction of essential campus facilities necessary to increase our services to veterans. These upgrades will not only improve service efficiency but also align with federal standards for ongoing funding under the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program.

**b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?**

\$250,000 will be used together with \$500,000 of federal funds to increase the number of service dogs we can provide to veterans and add mental health components to our program. \$1,000,000 will be used to construct indoor housing for the dogs. Indoor housing will have a profound improvement on our efficiency and will satisfy federal requirements for continued program funding under the Wounded Warrior Service Dog program.

**c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?**

GAMSD will train and pair medical service dogs with disabled veterans, to perform tasks veterans are no longer able to do themselves. GAMSD will also provide peer-to-peer support, suicide and crisis intervention, mental health and life coaching, family/caregiver and other lifelong support for the veteran/service dog pair. GAMSD services are provided free of charge and are focused on the unique needs of each veteran. This project will create jobs during construction and provide long-term employment opportunities in training and facility management. It will also generate indirect economic benefits through partnerships with local businesses and vendors.

**d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?**

Disabled Veterans of all military branches and eras along with their families and caregivers. Our services focus on veterans with PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury, and on training dogs to alert for seizures, diabetes, and hearing. Most veterans have a combination of these permanent disabilities. We expect to serve over 600 individuals annually.

**e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?**

Expected Benefits: Reduction in PTSD symptoms, suicidal ideation, and nightmares. Improved mental health, social engagement, and family relationships. Enhanced independence and quality of life for veterans.  
 Measurement of Success: Baseline assessments upon application compared to quarterly evaluations after service dog pairings to track improvements in symptoms and mental health, social involvement, and quality of life.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?**

Standard contract penalties for failing to meet deliverables are sufficient.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No  Yes

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

Hurricane Debby 8/2024, Hurricane Helene 9/2024, Hurricane Milton 10/2024

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied



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- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. Recipient Contact Information**

**a. Organization**

**b. Municipality and County**

**c. Organization Type**

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College



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Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*